(c) the number of new applications that are pending for clearance to start television channels?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Till 30.6.2006, the Ministry has permitted 185 private satellite TV channels to uplink form India as per uplinking guidelines. In addition to this, 65 TV channels have been provisionally permitted to downlink in India in accrodance with Gazette notification No. GSR 282(E) dated 11.5.2006. The names and details of such TV channels, the afore-mentioned Gazette Notification, uplinking and downlinking guidelines are available on the Ministry's website (www.mib.nic. in).

(c) As on 30.6.2006, the proposals of 30 private satellite TV channels for permission to uplink from India and 12 TV channels for downlinking permission are at various stages of scruiting in accordance with the extant guidelines.

Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill

1089. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are planning to introduce a Broadcast Services Regulation Bill;

(b) if so, in what manner it would help to monitor the growing media industry; and

(c) by when this Bill would become functional?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is considering a proposed Broadcasting Services Regulation Bill in consultation with Ministries concerned. A need has also been felt to consult the media in the matter.

It is, therefore, difficult to indicate final views or to give a time-frame on the proposal.

Popularisation of Indian Channels

1090. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study on the impact of DD-India Channel abroad

particularly in USA, UK and the Middle-East has been conducted by Doordarshan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Doordarshan to popularize DD-India Channel abroad?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) Prasar Bharati have informed that a study on the reach and impact of DD-India Channel in Middle-East countries is on the anvil.

Prasar Bharati have informed that Doordarshan has already entered into agreements for the distribution of DD-India Channel in Canada and USA and that a similar agreement for distribution in the UK is under finalization.

(c) DD-India carries news bulletins, features on topical events, entertainment programmes, feature films, music and dance including children programmes in some regional languages. The content medley of DD-India channel is expected to serve the interests and needs of the Indian diaspora.

Guidelines for Cable Operators

1091. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that cable operators are running their business as per their own will despite the objection raised by the subscribers;

(b) if so, whether Government have formulated any guidelines for the cable operators keeping in view the safeguard and interests of the subscribers;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether Government propose to regulate the cable operation business through a Regulatory Authority; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government against the erring cable operators?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) to (c) The Cable Television Networks